

# English Phonetics and Linguistics

## EL120

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# Assessment Method

- Quiz1      Week 3      5%
- Quiz 2      Week 5      5%
- Quiz 3      Week 7      5%
- MTA      Week 9      20%
- Quiz 4      Week 11      5%
- Quiz 5      Week 13      5%
- Class Attendance and Paricipation      5%
- Final      50%
- Total      100%

# English Phonetics and Linguistics

## Unit 1

### Introduction

# Phonetics and Linguistics

# Introduction

## What is this course for?

- This course aims at introducing phonetics and linguistics.
- It teaches you the basic terminology used in phonetics.
- It helps students to prepare for more advanced courses.

# Introducing Phonetics and Linguistics

**This introductory unit aims to provide you with an overall view of the content of this course:**

- What is linguistics?
- What is language?
- What is the relationship between linguistics and other fields of study?

# What is linguistics?

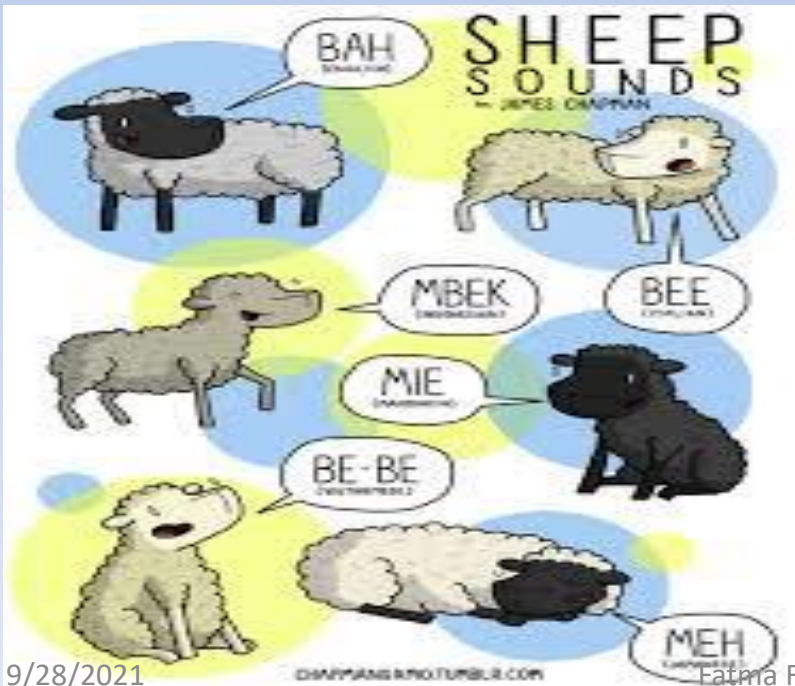
Linguistics is defined as the scientific study of language.

# Language:

## Animal Language



## Human Language



# What is linguistics?

## What does scientific mean?

1. Objective not subjective
2. Consistent from the beginning to the end
3. Explicit= Clear
4. Comprehensive
5. Based on evidence



# Online resources:-

The following site provide essential information for this unit and for forthcoming units.

- Cambridge Dictionaries Online

<http://dictionary.cambridge.org/define.asp?key=46411&dict=CALD>

Search in: *Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary [CALD]*.

Example:

**Linguistics** [noun]: the systematic study of the structure and development of language in general or of particular languages



## **Activity (1):**

Look up the following words and phrases:

- Dead Language:
- Lingua franca:
- First language:
- Sign language:

# C- Approaches to the study of language

- Linguists adopt different approaches determined by the objectives of their investigations of different aspects of language. In this unit we will focus on one Approach.

# The General Linguistics

## What do we mean when we say we know a language ?

1. We mean we know the sounds that make up this language.

Why do Arab speakers find difficulties in pronouncing [p] and pronounce it [b]? The same with pronouncing Arabic sounds!! Phonetics

2. Some sound combinations are possible in one language but not in another. Phonology

3. Then words are combined to produce longer meaningful units or words. Morphology

4. Words combine to produce sentences. What is the word order in English??? Syntax

5. the sentence to be acceptable is must be meaningful. Semantics

# The General Linguistics

- Linguistic structures are pairings of meaning and form.
- Linguists may specialize in some part of the linguistic structure which can be arranged from form to meaning:

1. Phonetics : The study of the physical properties of speech production and perception by human beings.
2. Phonology : The study of sounds as units contributing to meaning
3. Morphology : The study of internal structures of words and how they can be modified
4. Syntax : The study of how words combine to form acceptable sentences
5. Semantics : The study of the meanings of words
6. Discourse : The study of units beyond the sentence boundary.

## Other branches of linguistics•

- Sociolinguistics:** the study of language use in society
- Corpus Linguistics:** the study of language using a computer software
- Applied Linguistics:** the application of linguistic knowledge to areas like language teaching and learning, speech therapy, dictionary making and translation.

## 2- What is Language?

Language is often defined as a human faculty [ Mental Ability] that distinguishes human beings from animals.



Read the following hypothetical situation and answer the questions that follow:

*An English child was born in China and by the age of one his [English] parents were killed in a car accident and he was looked after by a Chinese family, who spoke Chinese only. By the age of six, the child, whose name is Bill, was sent to London to live with his grandparents. There he began to learn English at home and at school.*

# Questions:

1. Will Bill acquire Chinese in exactly the same way as Chinese children do?
2. Will he find difficulty in learning Chinese?
3. Will he find difficulty in learning English at a later stage [at the age of six]?
4. Which of the two languages would be easier for him to use later on in his life, let us say, by the age of 15?

# What is Language?

The conclusions to be drawn from the above discussion are:

- A child will learn any human language to which he is exposed regardless of his race or origin and regardless of who his parents are.
- Human language needs a social and cultural environment to be acquired. So language is culturally transmitted.
- It is deduced from the above that there are as many languages as there are varied cultures.
- **Human languages are similar because children can learn them in a natural way.** Is this true??

# 3- What is Language?

All human languages share some universal features:

- 1- All languages are made of sounds that combine together to make meaning.
- 2- All languages have rules for combining sounds and combining words.
- 3- All spoken languages have consonants and vowels.
- 4- All languages have categories like nouns, verbs, adjectives, etc...
- 5- In any language, there will be distinct terms for body, head etc...

# 3- What is Language?

## 6. All human languages are used for communication

- All languages are **spoken** except for some dead languages like Latin.
- All languages are capable of serving the **communicative needs** of their speakers.
- New vocabulary items and expressions can be **added** [coined] to take care [accommodate] new social developments.
- In **communication**, native speakers of any language can ask questions, express likings and disliking, deny rumors, etc
- All languages have **expressions** that refer to actions and events.

# Thank You